

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

8 March 2006, 6pm-8pm

City Hall L280

1. Call to order and introductions 6:02

SPAB members in attendance: Jodie Vice (Chair), Matthew Amster-Burton, , Molly McCarthy (Vice Chair), Jean Healy, Chris Tachibana (Board Secretary), Rob Fellows, Peg Staeheli, Rob Ketcherside, Maria Koengeter, Peg Staeheli, Nicole DeFrank (Get Engaged)

SDOT staff: Megan Hoyt

Absent: Rob Ketcherside

Presenter: Naceem Navidi, Get Engaged Coordinator

Public: Benjamin Smith (Board Candidate)

2. Approval of February minutes 6:03

3. Naceem Navidi (Metrocenter YMCA) 6:04

Handed out information on Get Engaged and explained the program, including the process of application and approval. Referrals to SPAB are requested. All 18-29 year-old Seattle residents are eligible. Diverse backgrounds and applicants age 18-23 are particularly encouraged.

Megan requested forwardable electronic information.

4. School Reduced Speed Zone Sign Policy discussion 6:10

SPAB received email from Megan about this, including information on the workshop on 4 April. It will be attended by Peg and Nicole.

Megan explained that formerly, the only policy SDOT had was about zone signs at schools with school patrol. The policy expanded in 2002-2003 to include areas with adult crossing guards. Patrol and guard programs are disappearing, so the workshop will discuss the issue of school reduced speed zones, compare policies in other cities and states with defined policies (such as San Francisco and Utah), and create a proposal on what constitutes a school zone and how it should be indicated.

General discussion was held on aspects of defining a school speed zone, such as "when children are present" or presence of crossing guards, flashing lights and 20 mph signs. Molly and Matthew both pointed out that "when children are

present" signs are futile because one doesn't always know when kids are present, and when they are visible, drivers automatically slow down. Peg noted that city schools function as parks, so they should be pedestrian-safe all the time. Matthew pointed out that the entire area should be designed to encourage slower speeds.

Rob asked why crossing guard programs are disappearing and brought up the effect of putting schoolchildren on Metro buses. Molly said that crossing guard programs fall under the police department, where priority is in other areas, so when people leave the program, they are not replaced.

Matthew asked how dangerous is it in school zones and several general school areas where incidents have occurred (Ballard, Gatzert) but Megan said collisions not always in areas that would be impacted by the presence of school zone signs.

Other issues discussed included how to indicate special school crosswalks and what to do about crosswalks used by children walking to school, which may be blocks from the school. The need is for a policy that can be uniformly applied and effective at reducing speeds where needed. Rob suggested the PTA of each school could say where needs are greatest. Megan and Maria mentioned data on where adult crossing guards are used could be helpful, as well as counts on how many children are crossing per hour. After the workshop, Megan will have a draft policy to circulate.

5. Budget and new revenue source discussion 6:40

Advisories on these topics will be sent out tomorrow.

a) Budget advisory

Peg said the current draft asks for \$500,000 but if the city is really serious about pedestrian issues, then it should fund big projects and we should ask for \$2 million. Molly added the statement "we can't say we're moving forward if we're moving one block at a time". Peg suggested sending to newspapers as Op-Ed or letter and Molly will work on formatting.

b) New revenue advisory

Rob handed out a new draft including a reference to sidewalks and public health. We don't know what the ballot measure will be but a stakeholder's group has a draft of this advisory.

6. Presentations for April's meeting (visits from Councilmembers Clark and Drago) 7:00

Jodie said new SPAB members (we hope!) and councilmembers will be present. Molly and Rob suggested focusing on planning, funding and standards and remember to introduce ourselves. Jodie added that we should stress our advocacy and the input we have on city planning projects. A list was compiled

including Northgate, Alaskan Way Viaduct (including no replacement option), Rainer Corridor/SE Seattle, APS signals, monorail, Waterfront, South Lake Union and Mercer Street reorganization, Aurora, Sound Transit). Chris and Rob mentioned that we should focus on Clark's specialties of neighborhoods and zoning.

The plan is Jodie introduces and talks about planning; Jean and Peg talk on practical issues (standards) including accessibility; Rob talks on funding. Jodie and the speakers will create outlines by email. Molly suggested a one-page action list with our personal information to give them.

7. May retreat ideas 7:20

Current plan is to work on the scope for the Pedestrian Master Plan. We may include discussion on designing for pedestrians. Peg may bring a presentation on design for pedestrians. The tentative plan is to cancel the May meeting and have the retreat from 10-2 on Saturday 13 May at Peg's SVR office.

8. Round Robin 7:25

Chris worked on budget advisory and got in touch with Councilmember Clark.

Jean noticed APS signals at Madison and 17th. She remarked that islands in the middle of streets are important because she recently got caught crossing Rainier at McClellan when the signal changed and she had nowhere to stop. This intersection also has an APS signal, but only in one direction.

Molly is giving up on getting a response from the police.

Peg was contacted by a neighborhood group about the Orchard street trail in West Seattle and reminded us that park issues can become connection and pedestrian issues. Thanks to Matthew for fantastic, dynamic service on the SPAB. Please continue to come to meetings!

Rob wrote letters about the Viaduct, preferring just tearing it down to building a larger one (if the tunnel isn't possible). He is up for President of the Greenwood Community Council.

Megan heard from the Mayor's office about \$1.2 million for crosswalks.

Maria also commented on the Orchard street loop trail. There's some confusion on its approval but it seems to be under revision.

Jodie thanked Matthew and Maria for service. She wrote letters about the Viaduct saying that replacing it with another viaduct isn't an option. She is part of a new project in Squire Park to create intersections with art and other innovations to calm traffic, with the idea that novelty and uncertainty makes people slow down.

Rob Ketcherside, e-commuting to SPAB meetings from Japan, sent a link to his blog, featuring Tokyo's answers to urban dogs and their residue:
http://www.zombiezodiac.com/rob/ped/archives/tokyo/dog_streets.html

9. Update on New SPAB members/candidates (7:45)

Jodie, Megan and Molly talked about new candidate interviews. We should hear on Monday on our five recommendations (three to Mayor, two to City Council). Megan will get the paperwork and an introductory email in order.

10. Upcoming agenda items (7:47)

a) To save time next week with the Councilmembers, SPAB members will send Jodie their name, age, occupation and neighborhood for an introductory handout. This information will include the new members.

b) Megan has found someone at SDOT to talk about sandwich boards, perhaps at the April meeting.

c) Rob says the ballot initiative mentioned by the Mayor should be going to the City Council by May to be on the November ballot.

d) Megan said to look for a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) about the viaduct. Rob said will be one on 520 released on the same day. Peg said if turnaround is rapid, we should have a side meeting on these issues.

e) Discussion was held on if we should have mentors for the new members. The plan is to ask via email if they want mentors and also encourage being in workgroups, e.g. on DEIS, with members who could guide them.

f) On the southeast transportation issue, Megan said a new person was hired at SDOT for a 6-month study. She also said Thomas street overpass would be an upcoming item.

11. Public comment (7:50)

Ben recommended the Transportation Coalition Forum brown bag lunch Friday 10 March 12-1, reviewing the legislative session.

12. Adjourn (8:00)